

REMARKS

Applicant is herewith filing a Request for Continued Examination and requests that the Amendment submitted on December 23, 2009 be entered. Applicant wishes to reply to the Examiner's comments set forth in the Advisory Action mailed January 6, 2010.

Independent claim 1, as amended, is directed to a method of controlling or modeling the process of densifying at least one porous substrate and includes extracting an effluent gas from an oven, measuring the content in the effluent gas of "at least one compound selected from allene and propine" and adjusting at least the flow rate of a "carbon-precursor hydrocarbon" into the oven "to maintain the measured content at a substantially constant value."

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited combination of references for at least the reason that claim 1 recites measuring allene and/or propine and controlling the process to maintain the measured contents at a substantially constant value. As Applicant has asserted in the arguments already submitted, allene and propine, while mentioned in the Birakayala reference, are only mentioned in such a way that the attention of one of ordinary skill in the art would not be drawn to specifically select allene and/or propine as the constituent or constituents in the effluent gas that should be monitored in order to control the process of densifying a porous substrate.

As Applicant has previously submitted, Birakayala references a total of 47 reversible reactions involving 19 species with a reference to the molecule C_3H_4 appearing in a couple of lines of Table I. Applicant can find no teaching within Birakayala to

measure the content of C_3H_4 in an effluent gas in order to control the process. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no teaching or suggestion in Birakayala that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand to mean that allene and/or propene would be measured in the effluent gas in order to control the process.

For at least the reasons submitted above, and previously submitted in the now-entered Amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims in the pending application are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes the pending claims are in condition for allowance and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present application. The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due to this submission, or credit any balance, to Deposit Account No. 23-0804.

Respectfully submitted,

SION, Eric

Dated: January 29, 2010

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